

## Necropolis 1891

### Chapter 1891: Heart of a Dark World

“Your beloved mother doesn’t trust me,” Lu Yun proclaimed when Nightmare caught up to him.

“Huh?” the ghost cultivator blinked.

“She doesn’t trust me because she can’t tell how I’m controlling you. As a grand supreme, she can naturally determine with a single glance that you treat me with a different attitude,” Lu Yun sighed. “When she talked about betrothing you to me, that was a test. If I really had accepted, she would’ve killed me on the spot.

“Your mother’s plans for you... heh,” Lu Yun laughed in a self-deprecating manner. He’d almost wanted to erase Nightmare’s name from the Tome of Life and Death just now. The sect master of the Ghost Sect had locked onto him with terrifying malice!

He’d felt this wave of malevolence before he set foot into the sect, but the sect master ultimately kept her murderous desires in check because she was also a grand supreme. She knew who backed Lu Yun.

“I...” Nightmare paused, dazed, and chuckled ruefully. “Mother would probably be very happy if her name could be written into the treasure too.”

Lu Yun shook his head. “Your mother is a grand supreme, so there’s no point in writing her name down. I’m too weak. C’mon, let’s go fetch that world heart.”

He was on the alert after finding out that not all grand supremes were interested in the tomb of the empyrean supreme. How many were like the sect master of the Ghost Sect?

“Are we still going to a Dark World?” Nightmare blinked. “Mother will probably not join hell even if you obtain a world heart.”

“Of course she won’t, how would I ever believe a ghost cultivator completely full of bullshit?” Lu Yun curled his lip. “But she did remind me that I have a lot of use for one. If I can devour several of them, I’ll be able to manifest a child world of hell.”

“A child world?” Nightmare started.

“It’ll be similar to the previous eighteen layers of hell that once existed. Hell is only hell at the moment, a vast and unbounded world. It has no obligations or authority, and it doesn’t bury the living as the six hells once did.” Lu Yun thought for a moment. “Only when I craft a child world in hell and prod hell dao into evolving order can I forge a world of hell dao sequence.”

Nightmare’s eyes widened.

Forge a world of hell dao sequence?

The original god of Mount Tai had managed the deed and his world of sequence was the foremost world of sequence in the chief worlds. But his hell dao was incomplete since he’d only possessed five hells, so the world of sequence was a failure and ultimately destroyed.

The seed of nothing resulting from it melded into the first realm. Eventually, traces of the first world of hell dao sequence were completely erased from existence.

Lu Yun had been searching for a way to open another world of sequence, but repeated deductions told him that the most ideal opportunity lay with the Ghost Sect. That was why he'd come with Nightmare, and to think that the opportunity would result from one casual exchange with its sect master!

The world heart of a Dark World.

There was great meaning to forging a world of hell dao sequence. Immortal dao had its own world of sequence now, but if it could open another, it would absolutely become the number one great dao among the chief worlds. Traversing the outside realm would no longer be a dream.

Lu Yun had an even greater ambition—craft worlds of sequence for all three thousand daos under immortal dao!

If he was successful, that would make the current World of Immortals the heart of the chief worlds. Even chief world denizens would have to take the ascent protocol to the World of Immortals once they reached a certain peak in their cultivation.

First the world of hell dao sequence, then the world of formula dao sequence.

But it was an exceedingly difficult task to create a world of sequence. Heavyweights of the chief worlds had spent countless eons, four Hell Tombs, and the core essence of the Land of Reincarnation to create one world of sequence. Lu Yun's goal was a long and arduous journey that could not be completed in one night.

His most pressing job was to retrieve a world heart and use it to derive a child world for hell dao. He needed to forge eighteen layers of hell and coalesce hell dao order.

The closest Dark World was very far from the Ghost Sect and even more infinitely far from the World of Immortals. It would take Lu Yun a while to reach it. Thus, he bought tickets on a flight treasure. As they sped through the void, major worlds passed by them like scintillating balls of energy.

"What are you thinking about?" Nightmare sat next to Lu Yun and couldn't help asking when she saw him lost in thought.

"I'm wondering what the true nature of this world is," Lu Yun murmured. "If there wasn't life, what would be the point of this massive void and these worlds?"

"Huh?" Whatever Nightmare expected, this wasn't it.

"There is an origin point and starting point for life, but before life came to be, what were these worlds here for?" Lu Yun continued. "Life formed out of an accident, and with life comes perspective. That is how we see the world in front of us. But what about the time before life?"

He looked at Nightmare, who blinked back at him.

There was no order before life. Order bestowed structure to existence, thereby creating the conditions and environment for life. Lu Yun's question was correct. What was the meaning of this world, the chief worlds, and existences even more encompassing than them?

He'd thought about this question before when he was still on Earth, but he was too small to see the vastness of the outside. There was only one thought in his mind, that if Earth was the only location of life and intelligence in the universe, then what of things before Earth existed?

What was the purpose for the universe then?

"Hahahaha!!" came a loud peal of laughter as a tall, muscular man walked up to Lu Yun. "That is a great question, fellow daoist! I am Xu Che." He raised cupped fists.

Lu Yun rose to return the gesture. He could tell that Xu Che was at least a fortieth level sequence cultivator—on par with Nightmare. The Spectral Eye, however, told him that there was something more frightening on this Xu Che that could tear supremes apart.

This was no ordinary person.

"Zhu Lingyan," Lu Yun offered.

"So you're one of the Myriad Spirit Grant Supreme's!" Xu Che's eyes flashed with recognition when he heard the name. Thanks to assiduous efforts from the supreme's disciples, Zhu Lingyan was well known throughout the chief worlds. That would make his travels easier.

"Well met!" Lu Yun smiled. "Can fellow daoist enlighten me?"

"I... I cannot either," Xu Che shook his head. "If I could, I would stand at the apex of this world. But I know one person who can answer your question!"

"Who is it?" Lu Yun brightened.

"The master of formula dao from the World of Immortals, Lu Yun!"

Chapter 1892: Void Raiders

Xu Che was a gregarious person who quickly became friendly with Lu Yun. He came from a world called Sunblaze Realm and had the chance to stretch his legs because the world's powerhouses had emptied out. They'd all gone to the tomb of the empyrean supreme.

Waves of shock roiled in Lu Yun's heart when he heard the young man's self introduction. A world that could be labeled with the "realm" suffix in the chief worlds was the cream of the crop. He knew of Qiu Feishan's Autumnus Realm, Yun Yi's Cloudmist Realm, and now Sunblaze Realm!

Other than those, not even the dragons and Morans possessed the right to be called a "realm". This was despite their worlds of sequence!

Lu Yun learned that Xu Che was also headed toward the Dark World, and that only high supremes could retrieve a world heart... but that cultivators were forestalled from entering a Dark World after exceeding sequence.

There were plenty of senior cultivators in the chief worlds who could shake off sequence at any time and forge their dao palace, but they dragged their heels. One of the primary reasons was that special locales, such as the Dark Worlds, limited access to only sequence cultivators.

Once a dao palace was finished and order coalesced in one's body, the cultivator became a walking world. That would create repulsion from many special worlds. Thus, sequence cultivators were the primary force in exploring these locales.

The World of Soul Dominion repulsed supremes due to its internal rules, but supremes could still enter via certain special methods. The Dark Worlds, however, were different. The orders of that world rejected all other orders. There would be no supremes in the Dark Worlds. If outsiders entered, even in the form of a projection of the will, one of the two would perish.

While the projections of supremes did not come with a dao palace, they came with the will of order.

Lu Yun was much more at ease after Xu Che's explanation.

The flight treasure that they were on didn't stop at all nearby major worlds. Its destination was the major world closest to the Dark World; more than eighty percent of its passengers wanted the world heart.

Other than the conversation between Lu Yun, Nightmare, and Xu Che, the vessel's passengers rested or read the latest edition of the spirit paper.

Apart from the original edition from the World of Immortals, the other version of the spirit paper was the chief world adaptation from Myriad Spirit's hands. Both editions had their pros and cons, as well as a different focus in their reports.

Apart from these two, a variety of minor publications abounded in the chief worlds. However, none of them dared use the "spirit paper" name.

The chief worlds were a place of cultivation, so there was no such thing as copyright law. Instead, there was karma. If someone used the name without Lu Yun or the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme's approval, they would suffer the consequences.

Granted, Lu Yun wouldn't care if someone did use it without his permission. He'd created the spirit paper to bolster the World of Immortals' reputation and demoralize the outsiders invading his home.

It'd now become a mainstay of modern culture, helping cultivators relax after cultivation. Even some grand supremes were highly complimentary of it.

Goodwill streamed to Lu Yun from the chief worlds and fertilized his Karmic Tree. It split once more, creating two saplings that fully matured into adult trees. He gave them to Qing Yu and the little fox. There were now a total of four Karmic Trees in existence.

Apart from budding karmic fruits, the Karmic Tree was an exceedingly useful treasure that could probe other people's emotions. Whether one bore kind or evil intentions was readily discernible with a quick glance.

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Rumble—

Violent trembles awakened cultivators deep in training. The flight treasure was under attack by a group of thirtieth level sequence cultivators! They'd formed a cohort to raid any flight treasure that crossed their path.

Their cultivation had reached their personal limits and their potential was fully tapped. They could not access thirty-one levels of sequence to become a supreme. Thus, they gathered together as a band of desperados and robbed passing cultivators, reaping a piddling amount of wealth.

"Are these bastards tired of living to attack a flight treasure on its way to a Dark World?!" Xu Che glared at the scene outside.

Everyone had their own philosophy of how to live life. Some senior cultivators explored a variety of ancient sites and danger zones when they exhausted their potential, so they might stumble upon new opportunities. But even more chose to join forces and become void raiders, killing and looting anyone they came across.

Normally speaking, however, they were bullies afraid of the strong. While they robbed passersby, they never attacked someone of strength. This vessel was headed for a Dark World and most of its passengers were formidable senior cultivators. Yet the void raiders had still chosen this target?

"There's a supreme among them." Lu Yun swept a glance outside. "And more than one of them. They hid their strength before and didn't dare be too blatant, but with the opening of the empyrean supreme's tomb and the preoccupation of most powerhouses in the realm, that's given these guys courage and room to maneuver."

Xu Che raised a brow. He wasn't afraid of supremes.

"Be careful, these void raiders are here to loot geniuses," Lu Yun said to his new friend.

The people around them also heard his words, but dismissive looks appeared in their eyes. Each flight treasure, particularly ones that traveled great distances through the chief worlds, retained a resident supreme. A supreme among these criminals? They were bound to be trash supremes who couldn't wait to ascend at thirty-one levels. What did they matter?

The supreme on their vessel could smack one hundred of them to death with a single palm strike.

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**BOOM!**

Another loud explosion rang out. This time, the flight treasure didn't shake. It would appear that the attack wasn't aimed at it.

"That's... the Shangyu Supreme's head!! What's going on?!" A sequence cultivator cast a horrified glance outside, watching a head whip past a window.

The Shangyu Supreme was the supreme protecting the vessel, but he'd been beheaded. He was probably dead! A tense atmosphere spread inside the treasure.

"These aren't ordinary void raiders," Lu Yun whispered. "Maybe they're from a large faction disguised as void raiders, or maybe they're a supreme-level force."

The vessel resumed motion, but not along its original flight path. The flight treasure headed for the Dark World was thus hijacked and captured by a group of raiders.

“My communication talisman isn’t working.” Xu Che took out a jade talisman and infused a tendril of soul force. It remained inert.

Chapter 1893: Scapegoat

The flight treasure crashed heavily to the ground, ugly fissures snaking across its surface. Though it’d suffered countless attacks, it managed to remain intact.

The vessel belonged to an incomparably formidable ancient faction in the chief worlds. Only such a faction possessed the right to open transportation lanes in the realm. Basic supremes could not operate a flight treasure.

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This was a barren and abandoned world. Approximately three thousand senior cultivators surrounded a vessel shaped like a bird and barraged it with furious attacks. Their leader was a young girl in a yellow outfit, she was staring fixedly at the damaged flight treasure.

“Is the intelligence correct? Is she really in there?”

“In response to the princess, our people saw her board this Starcatch Tower vessel with their own eyes,” a man versed in martial arts responded respectfully.

The young girl hailed as their princess was a cultivator of twenty-eight levels of sequence. The man by her side was a very powerful supreme. He’d decapitated the Shangyu Supreme with one stroke.

None of them were void raiders—they were from one of the divine nations of the chief worlds! Divine nations were formidable factions whose names shook the chief worlds. Any who could establish a nation among the realm was no weakling.

Meanwhile, Starcatch Tower was a renowned merchant company in the chief worlds with strength to reinforce their reputation. And yet, a divine nation had casually intercepted one of their vessels that carried a full manifest of senior cultivators.

The vessel proved so durable that even supremes couldn’t break it apart. As time went on, the princess grew more impatient.

“Set up the formation!” she barked out. Though she remained expressionless, her voice betrayed her agitation. It was obvious that there was someone in this flight treasure that she hated with every fiber of her being.

Kaboom!

Rules intersected and laws descended, blasting the vessel with another round of daunting attacks.

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“What’s going on? Who’s she looking for?” Dismay rose and fell inside the flight treasure. The formation being set up was incredibly strong. Once the treasure broke apart, everyone inside would be vaporized!

Their escort was dead and the remaining Starcatch cultivators similarly executed. The treasure had become a can that couldn't be opened from inside or out.

"No one move, let me try something." Lu Yun stood up and signaled for Nightmare to stay put. He entered the cockpit, finding nothing but a few balls of bloody mist.

The treasure's defensive capabilities could withstand a supreme's attack, but those controlling the vessel were connected to it. The enormous backlash vaporized them on the spot. The center of the cockpit held something similar to a furnace; it was the heart of the vessel's movement and laid in smoking ruins.

The formation outside continued its offensive. Lu Yun didn't dare connect himself to the flight treasure as it'd consign him to the same fate as the balls of drifting mist in front of him.

"Those guys outside have sealed off the spatial power around us. If I want to leave, I need to go through hell or open the cabin doors..." Lu Yun glanced outside. Malice had overtaken the princess and she didn't plan on letting any of them live. They would all be executed!

After all, if someone learned that a divine nation had hijacked a Starcatch vessel, the two factions would erupt in all out war.

"In that case... I guess a fight it is," Lu Yun breathed out gently. He took out a piece of enigma stone and etched runes in the air, directing formation glyphs into the flight treasure. Its bird-like shape began to change and black demonic runes extended from the cabin, wrapping around the vessel.

"Stop!" the man shouted. "Your Highness, I'm afraid there is a supplemental king inside the flight treasure!"

"A supplemental king?" The princess set her jaw. "Rising Sunriver does not lack for supplemental kings. Continue at full force!"

"Rising Sunriver?" Lu Yun started. "Jiang Kui's faction? That nation is Corpse Refiner territory now... it's beyond redemption!"

His eyes narrowed—no wonder there was something vaguely familiar about the formation surrounding the flight treasure. It was the Great Formation of Corpse Refinement! But it wasn't just the formation, something else had been added to conceal its true nature. Did Rising Sunriver still wish to give off the impression of autonomy?

Caw!!

The flight treasure emitted a piercing bird call and unfurled massive wings, soaring into the sky and vanishing from the wreck of a major world.

"Rising Sunriver, Starcatch Tower will remember this offense!" Lu Yun's voice traveled out of the vessel.

Neither the Rising Sunriver princess nor the man anticipated this turn of events. They hadn't expected that a flight treasure with only a defensive formation left would come back to life! Victory had been essentially guaranteed!

"No!!" she shrieked. "After it! Don't let it get away no matter what!"

Three supremes rose in the air before she finished to give chase.

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“What’s going on? Rising Sunriver bears no grudge against Starcatch Tower, so why did it attack a Starcatch vessel?” Those inside the cabin had heard the commotion outside.

Since their death was all but assured, the Rising Sunriver princess hadn’t bothered concealing her identity. Who would’ve thought that the supplemental king inside the treasure would revitalize the vessel and escape from right beneath her nose?

“Have any of you offended the Rising Sunriver princess?” Xu Che rose and frostily addressed the crowd. “Rising Sunriver doesn’t have the courage to intercept a Starcatch vessel, so the only reason there can be is that the princess is addressing a personal issue.”

There were three supremes after them and it looked like the supremes wouldn’t stop until they reached their goal. They were hardly afraid of being exposed since they were dressed like void raiders.

All of the powerhouses in the chief worlds were at the empyrean supreme’s tomb. The only thing that Rising Sunriver had to do after they were finished was to blame things on the void raiders. It wasn’t like Starcatch Tower wished to war with the nation if they could help it.

Of course, the caveat was that everyone on the ship had to die, leaving no proof to the contrary.

Dead silence reigned in the flight treasure. No one said anything or admitted to anything.

“Don’t bother,” came Lu Yun’s voice. “The person that the Rising Sunriver princess is looking for isn’t here. We’re just a bunch of scapegoats for that person’s perfect getaway. If my guess is right, they’re headed for the Dark World too.”

He wasn’t worried about their present situation. Three supremes? They didn’t hold a candle to him.

Chapter 1894: The Dark World

The flight treasure shaped like a bird turned completely black. It picked up speed until it blurred into a streak of black light and vanished into the void.

The three Rising Sunriver supremes stopped and looked at each other.

“We’ve... we’ve lost them? How do we explain ourselves to the princess now?” they panicked. While the little princess didn’t possess a particularly high cultivation level, she was uncommonly cruel and vicious. It was well known that more supremes than could be counted had died at her hands.

The three could already imagine the welcome that’d be waiting for them when they returned home.

“No need.”

Boom!

Boom!

Boom!



The three supremes exploded into balls of bloody mist as the princess and muscular man appeared in the same spot.

“Trash!” She swept a glance over the dispersing clouds of bloody mist and turned to the man. “Qiewo.”

“Your Highness, the vessel was originally headed to the Dark World. We can just wait for them there. That person’s goal is also the Dark World, so I’m sure we’ll find her in that world.”

“Mhmm,” the princess nodded.

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The black bird sped through the void until it crash landed on a distant dim star. Cultivators inside the vessel could finally sag with relief. All of them felt incredibly lucky to be alive after that unforeseen calamity.

“My thanks to fellow daoist for saving our lives!” Roughly one thousand cultivators offered their gratitude to Lu Yun. Zhu Lingyan was now a name firmly etched in their hearts.

“Rising Sunriver is completely out of line here. How dare they conduct themselves in such a brazen manner just because the Corpse Refiners are their backer?!” Someone took out a communication talisman and prepared to announce their recent experience to the rest of the realm.

“One moment,” Lu Yun quickly stopped the person. “If my guess is right, those from Rising Sunriver will continue to disguise themselves as void raiders and look for us along our original flight path. We should split up and hide among the nearby major worlds. As for the matter of hijacking the flight treasure, let’s leave it to the spirit paper to break the news.”

Thoughts flew rapidly through everyone’s minds. While most of them were senior cultivators and also backed by supremes, whoever dared make this matter public would face that princess’ wrath and full vengeance.

Rising Sunriver was a divine nation with grand supremes in residence. When reinforced by the horrific Corpse Refiners, they could only be described as domineering. It would be a walk in the park for them to investigate who circulated the original news.

The spirit paper, however, was different. Falsehood and truth alike filled its pages, but its influence could not be denied. It also maintained strict confidentiality for its sources, so the Corpse Refiners and Rising Sunriver would never determine who their sources were.

Neither of the two factions were involved with the spirit paper either.

The group of cultivators slowly dispersed and hid themselves in nearby major worlds. Only Xu Che remained on the scene.

“It’s strange, don’t they say that we cultivators should keep to ourselves and avoid sticking our noses into things? So how come you...” He looked at Lu Yun with bafflement.

Zhu Lingyan absolutely had the ability to quietly slip away from the flight treasure with his companion. When he manipulated the vessel, Xu Che had been able to see through his cultivation—a supplemental king!

Lu Yun pursed his lips, he was used to doing things like this. The idea of collecting goodwill motivated him originally. Toward the end, it'd become instinct to involve himself like that.

This was purposefully fostered by the Tome of Life and Death. Even if the most irredeemable villain gained the treasure, they would eventually become a saint through the book's influence. After all, it would be a disaster for life itself if someone unscrupulous wielded the Tome of Life and Death.

Lu Yun was no saint, but neither was he evil incarnate. Hence, he wasn't particularly opposed to doing good deeds.

"Come on, let's take another flight treasure to the Dark World." He rubbed his nose with resignation. They were still too far from the world. If he flew there, it'd take him a few hundred years to reach his destination.

Since he couldn't be bothered with crafting a flight treasure, making use of public transportation through the chief worlds was the best option.

Transportation formations?

Those that could cross the realm were strictly grasped in the hands of the major factions and would never be available to the public.

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There was a lot of available transportation to the Dark World, so Lu Yun and the others quickly found another option. After several months of travel, they finally arrived at the world closest to the Dark World—a major world called Darkstar.

There was no supreme that ruled over it because it was too close to the Dark World. Constantly under threat of attack from the latter's denizens, neither supreme nor high supreme wished to be in charge.

Thus, Darkstar was an unclaimed world unfettered by any laws. Murder, looting, and killing others for their belongings happened everyday. At the same time, it was a tremendous zone for tempering oneself. Most of the notable merchant guilds in the chief worlds had established branches here. What particularly surprised Lu Yun was the presence of a Wind and Cloud Pagoda among their number.

Apart from Moran Dongning in hell, Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and Lu Feng had entered the tomb of the empyrean supreme. The Wind and Cloud Pagoda drew its name from the wind character in Lu Feng and the cloud character in Lu Yun.

Lu Yun was essentially the second master of this faction, but he didn't make his way there. With the World of Immortals conquering multiple major worlds, many factions of the outside realm had issued high bounties for the important personnel of their new enemy. Lu Yun's head was worth three major worlds—the value of a divine nation.

"How about we buy some Resurrection Talismans at the Wind and Cloud Pagoda? That'll better prepare us for the Dark World." Xu Che looked at Lu Yun with a smile.

"Xu Che." Silent all this time, Nightmare finally spoke. "If the three of us jointly claim the world heart in the Dark World, who will it belong to?"

Xu Che started, then chuckled ruefully. "Ah, I didn't think things through properly. I take my leave then." He raised a cupped fist salute at Lu Yun before departing.

"Annoying little tagalong. Did he really think he was part of us?" Nightmare curled her lip.

"Xu Che is very strong." Lu Yun watched him go. "He could've killed all of those Rising Sunriver people by himself. Wait, speak of the devil. They're here and looking for someone."

He suddenly saw the princess that had attacked them and pulled Nightmare in another direction.

"You there, halt!" The princess in a yellow outfit caught up to them, staring at Nightmare with her pretty eyes. "You're from the Ghost Sect?"

"Nightmare of the Ghost Sect," the female ghost introduced herself with a frown.

"Since you're from the Ghost Sect, come with me." The princess whirled around, thinking that Nightmare would naturally fall in place behind her.

"Idiot." Nightmare's lip curl deepened and she headed in another direction.

"How dare you?!" roared one of the supremes following the princess.

#### Chapter 1895: An Invitation From Starcatch Tower

Rising Sunriver was an absolute titan in the chief worlds. Grand supremes filled its ranks and the Corpse Refiners stood behind it. In terms of overall strength, it ranked above Chu Xingran's Darklake.

Little princess Jiang Lu was the apple of her father's eye. Vicious, brutal, and completely out of hand, her nature was the result of incessant spoiling from the nation's ruler. She killed people whenever anything showed a hint of not going her way.

As mighty as the Ghost Sect was, it was relatively just a bit subpar to a divine nation. Although its sect master was also a grand supreme, humans walking the path of ghost dao resulted in innate flaws. Thus, the sect master was the weakest among grand supremes.

Why else would the Ghost Sect wish to come under Lu Yun's banner?

Only when ghost cultivators trained in hell could they compensate for their connate drawbacks. Of course, the Ghost Sect was no easy target either. Nightmare had dared kill dragon warriors in the World of Soul Dominion. While the sect wasn't the strongest, there were no cowards to be found among its ranks.

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Nightmare couldn't be bothered to entertain Jiang Lu's demand. Yes, the Ghost Sect was a hair weaker than Rising Sunriver, but she was the foster daughter of the sect master. That made her a princess too! She wasn't in any way inferior to that girl, whether in terms of status or position.

However, the supreme by Jiang Lu's side plainly didn't share the sentiment. How dare a mewling cultivator from the Ghost Sect refuse his princess?! Thus, he grabbed for Nightmare, intending to haul her to his mistress' side.

Nightmare's eyes widened and she shifted back on the balls of her feet. She released a stark-white ghostly face from her hand with a sharp gesture. Sharp teeth bared menacingly, the face bore down on the supreme.

"What is this?!" gasped the supreme as he hastily retreated. The face tracked his movements and clung to him like a maggot, sinking its teeth into the supreme's arm.

"What??" Jiang Lu's eyes shot wide with surprise and she quickly moved to the side, watching one of her subordinates being eaten right in front of her.

Supremes were lofty beings to ordinary sequence cultivators. But to esteemed persons such as Jiang Lu and Nightmare, basic supremes were fit to be only servants.

Take Chu Xingran, for example. More supremes than could be counted had danced attendance on him before he entered the Land of Reincarnation. There was no sign of them afterward because his heart and mind were sufficiently tempered by his trials in the land. He no longer required their services after he left.

These days, he resided in the World of Immortals and took care of many affairs for Lu Yun. As the crown prince of a divine nation, overseeing a tiny conglomeration of tiny worlds was too simple of a task.

Qing Yu and the little fox could suppress the World of Immortals with absolute force and immortal dao. But if they wished to properly administer it? They were too inexperienced for that. Apart from the realm itself, the major worlds that they newly conquered and the new Formula Academies also required supervision.

Thus, Chu Xingran assumed management over everything in the absence of a better candidate. Instead of searching out his old subordinates, he utilized only his own abilities to support the emperor of the World of Immortals—Qing Yu's father, Qing Taxian.

As Rising Sunriver's most beloved princess, Jiang Lu was naturally surrounded by countless supremes. The death of one didn't mean much to her, but she was very surprised that this ordinary cultivator had such a fearsome treasure. It'd devoured a supreme through unrelenting bites!

This was no commonplace ghost cultivator.

"Nightmare of the Ghost Sect, is it?" Jiang Lu didn't move, instead staring at Nightmare with a clear, unblinking stare. A hint of ruthlessness ran through it. "The name seems familiar."

"Daughter of the Ghost Sect sect master." Nightmare turned to look at Jiang Lu. "You better stay out of my way. If I accidentally squash you, your royal father will probably be heartbroken."

An unnerving leer crept over her face. She was a ghost cultivator, one completely unconcerned by trouble. If she was up against a wall, she would truly squash Jiang Lu with one hand. She was forty-levels of sequence and protected by defensive treasures from her mother. Several supremes working together couldn't handle her, much less an twenty-eighth level sequence Jiang Lu.

The Rising Sunriver princess finally realized the situation she was in; her supremes immediately closed ranks around her.

“Nightmare of the Ghost Sect, I’ll remember you.” Jiang Lu drifted off gracefully, a cruel smile playing on her lips.

“Oh, right,” Nightmare suddenly grinned. “I was on the Starcatch vessel that you hijacked earlier.”

“We go!” Another supreme by Jiang Lu’s side reacted dramatically to these parting words. He shifted his mistress out of the area with a wave of his hand.

A Starcatch flight treasure had been hijacked and crash landed before its destination. Its supreme was dead in the process. The incident had raised significant ruckus and Starcatch Tower issued hefty rewards for information.

The spirit paper ran numerous exclusives during this time, pointing fingers squarely at Princess Jiang Lu of Rising Sunriver. However, most of what it wrote was hard to verify and thus, no further action was taken.

Although Starcatch Tower could surmise who the culprit was, they didn’t dare erupt in open hostilities. But now that the princess of the Ghost Sect had spoken of it, it lent a completely different air to the matter.

Nightmare had spoken the truth, it was up to the trading company to see if they believed her. There’d also been geniuses of numerous factions on that flight. While they hadn’t been physically injured, they would also look into the matter.

As for supremes, well, supremes never took a flight treasure. Distance held no meaning to them after they forged their dao palaces.

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“That was a killer move,” Nightmare giggled at Lu Yun. “I wouldn’t have had a chance to say that if she hadn’t provoked me. But er, why did she?”

It was Lu Yun’s idea for her to speak of what’d happened to the flight treasure. Only someone of Nightmare’s level would be plausible and not silenced for her knowledge. It was one thing if unimportant people died—that was not Nightmare. She possessed great status within the chief worlds.

“It probably has something to do with the Dark World.” Lu Yun didn’t find any answers after brief calculations. “Ghost Sect cultivators are strengthened by their forays in a Dark World, are they not?”

“Dark Worlds are formed by excess leakage of energy from the land of darkness. There are countless yin spirits within and order is disorganized. Ghost dao is part of dark dao order, so we are indeed stronger in a Dark World,” Nightmare clarified.

“How do we get there?” Lu Yun raised his head to look at the dome of Darkstar.

This world was completely shrouded by darkness. Only the Darkstar City that they were in possessed the tiniest bit of light. Darkstar was so dim not only because it lacked a sun star, but because it was next to the Dark World and thus couldn’t borrow illumination from other celestial bodies.

“Sir, miss, the Starcatch Tower would like to invite you for a visit.” A somewhat subservient voice traveled into their ears before Nightmare could answer Lu Yun.

## Chapter 1896: Myriad Treasure Grand Supreme

“Let’s go.” Lu Yun was hardly ruffled by the Starcatch Tower’s abrupt presence and demand.

One of their flight treasures carrying a full complement of geniuses had been destroyed en route to Darkstar. The mysterious assailant easily murdered the supreme among the flight crew and rumors were thick on the ground. Starcatch Tower had listed a high reward for any information.

Geniuses taking the vessel gradually made their way to Darkstar, but the supremes of Rising Sunriver were even swifter. Thus, no one dared speak of the truth to this day. They, at most, sent tips to the spirit paper. None of the geniuses were fools; whoever spoke of this matter would die and even endanger the factions behind them.

Since they’d bought passage on a flight treasure, that meant they weren’t important enough to be escorted by one of their supremes. Of course, Nightmare and Xu Che were exceptions. Yet, how many like them existed in the vast expanse of the chief worlds? Two seeking passage on the same flight treasure were incredible odds.

Having prospered in the realm for countless eons, Starcatch Tower was a merchant company behemoth in the chief worlds. Their business ran the gamut of all territories and flight treasures were only one of their wares.

The first flight treasures were used for trading instead of public transportation. After demand grew from sequence cultivators paying to occupy empty cargo space, the Starcatch Tower went ahead and offered mass transportation as a standalone service.

Once they set the precedent, other merchant companies followed suit and some banded together to demarcate transportation-only lanes. These flight lanes were called merchant roads and connected the chief worlds to each other. As the name indicated, they were paths created by merchant companies, so flight treasures that traveled along them were labeled merchant vessels. Those that belonged to Starcatch Tower were called Starcatch merchant vessels, and so forth for their respective merchant companies.

Lu Yun’s understanding of the chief worlds came from the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme and whatever was reported in the spirit paper. However, the realm was so incredibly expansive that not even the grand supreme could see it all clearly. Hence, Lu Yun ended up underestimating how much Starcatch Tower valued the merchant roads and vessels.

Although void raiders also attacked merchant vessels, they avoided the more important roads—such as the ones leading to the Dark Worlds.

In fact, other factions of the chief worlds had to pay a hefty sum of enigma stones if they wished to use the merchant roads. These were steady streams of easy revenue for the merchant companies, particularly one that traveled to a Dark World. If they didn’t get to the bottom of this matter, then this road was as good as defunct.

Jiang Lu never imagined that a casual hijacking of a merchant vessel would lead to such severe consequences. Others in Rising Sunriver, however, realized the ramifications. Once reports started appearing in the spirit paper, they tirelessly searched out and killed passengers on that merchant vessel.

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“Not bad.” There was a Starcatch branch in Darkstar. Lu Yun looked around after they entered and proclaimed his approval.

After their messenger led them to a private room, the supreme left to make his report.

“Indeed, but it’s still less than your Wind and Cloud Pagoda,” Nightmare nodded. Since her name was written into the Tome of Life and Death, she knew many of Lu Yun’s affairs, including the auction house that Lu Feng had created.

“My apologies for keeping my guests waiting!” A merry young man dressed in golden robes walked in. He raised cupped fists to Lu Yun and Nightmare. “I am Sikong Myriad Treasure and the grand overseer of Starcatch Tower on Darkstar.”

“You’re the Myriad Treasure Grand Supreme!” Nightmare shot to her feet and bowed to the newcomer.

“A grand supreme!” Lu Yun jumped with shock. He really had thought that all of the grand supremes in the realm had gone to the tomb of the empyrean supreme. Surely they were obsessed with a chance of breaking through to the next level! It was why he’d dared start a heaven-shaking war and conquer the major worlds of the outside realm.

Yet here he was, only a few days into his latest trip to the chief worlds and he’d already met two grand supremes!

Thank goodness there’s a whole crew of powerhouses holding down the fort in the World of Immortals... and that they’ll take action if need be. Lu Yun swallowed hard.

“Ah, so it’s the little girl of the Ghost King. I wondered who was brave enough to address the issue,” Myriad Treasure’s eyes twinkled when he smiled. He then turned to Lu Yun. “This young friend must be Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme’s beloved disciple, Zhu Lingyan?”

“I am,” Lu Yun nodded.

Myriad Spirit was Leize’s disciple and far stronger than the grand supreme in front of them and the Ghost King who was the sect master of the Ghost Sect. Lu Yun had no need to fear Sikong Myriad Treasure.

“Surely the grand supreme isn’t meeting with us for just this minor matter?” Lu Yun smiled and sat back down.

The grand supreme started. An issue having to do with a merchant road and vessel was very important to supremes and high supremes, but it didn’t warrant the attention of a grand supreme.

Myriad Treasure had probably known beforehand that Lu Yun and Nightmare would arrive on this world; he was only posturing otherwise. Jiang Lu was looking for Ghost Sect cultivators, so Sikong Myriad Treasure was likely here for Nightmare too.

“The Dark World is about to open,” the grand supreme responded candidly. “Its emergence has shaken the chief worlds and many sealed off secret realms or hidden treasures are manifesting.”

Lu Yun raised an eyebrow. He'd thought that Yun Yi had ignited the spacetime tide ahead of time and that the Sea of Creation had appeared due to other reasons. It would seem that this was all due to the tomb, and that the Dark World was the latest addition to the list.

He naturally knew that the world was about to open. Why else would the Ghost King have requested the world heart?

"While ghost cultivators can bring greater strength to bear in a Dark World, I'm sure that doesn't mean anything to a faction as formidable as Starcatch Tower," Lu Yun chuckled.

Perhaps Jiang Lu needed a ghost cultivator to do her bidding, but the merchant company absolutely didn't. Someone as mighty as Myriad Treasure wouldn't meet with them just for this matter—not even when Nightmare was the daughter of the Ghost King.

"Indeed, it does not," Myriad Treasure chuckled ruefully. The young man in front of him seemed to be able to read his mind. He was growing curious about Myriad Spirit's disciple as even Nightmare seemed to take her cues from him. She didn't interrupt when he spoke.

"Nightmare is different from other ghost cultivators, however. I can lend her our greatest treasure. It will enable her to deploy the strength of a high supreme in the Dark World."

"A high supreme!" Lu Yun's eyebrows shot into his hairline. "What's the price?"

Myriad Treasure looked at Nightmare.

"Tell us, what would you have me do? The world heart is very important to my sect, so I will not give it to you even if you help me use the strength of a high supreme," she responded. Only one world heart was available when a Dark World opened, which was why she'd chased Xu Che away.

### **Chapter 1897: Domineering New Money**

"The world heart?" Sikong Myriad Treasure smiled easily. "That's just something worth a bit of enigma stones to Starcatch Tower. Profit that is readily at hand is not worth considering."

Nightmare blinked. Since she wasn't a grand supreme, she wasn't able to consider issues from their vantage point. In her eyes, the world heart was the most important thing in a Dark World. Although treasures abounded within the world, there was nothing else that could compare.

"Starcatch Tower wishes to build a branch in the Dark World. Once it is established, it will be able to communicate with headquarters even after the world closes. We will receive an endless stream of the Dark World's resources.

"Compared to the profit of an entire world, what does a world heart matter?"

Nightmare's eyes went wide with shock. She looked incredulously at Lu Yun.

He shrugged noncommittally. He'd never been to one, so he didn't know what was available on a Dark World. Although the ghost cultivator had introduced the Dark Worlds to him along the way, he still wasn't sure what the true meaning of a Dark World was.

Its resources?



To the current Lu Yun, there was nothing more important than enigma stones and ancestral veins of heaven and earth. Those plainly weren't produced in a Dark World. Hence, he remained quiet during the exchange. Nightmare could make her own decision in the matter.

The world heart was what was important to him. Obtaining it meant making progress toward refining eighteen levels of hell and creating the orders of hell dao.

Only when a Dark World coalesced a world heart did it open up; the process took roughly one hundred million years. The world remained closed during this time, but not entirely sealed off. Its denizens could emerge from the world through various methods and harass the rest of the realm, whereas chief world outsiders couldn't barge in for revenge.

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Nightmare had to determine her own course of action given Lu Yun's lack of guidance. She was his subordinate, and he didn't like having subordinates that required his input in everything.

Apart from the Infernum, all of his subordinates could be relied on to fully manage their own duties. His ten Yama Kings had exited the World of Immortals to be headmasters of Formula Academies on ten different major worlds while still leading armies against the chief worlds.

If Nightmare couldn't handle such a minor matter, then Lu Yun would wipe her memory and erase her name from the Tome of Life and Death.

"I can do that!" Nightmare understood Lu Yun's intention. "I can help Starcatch Tower establish a branch in the Dark World, but you must help me obtain the world heart!"

"Naturally. We seek something, so we must give something in return," Sikong Myriad Treasure nodded. It was just a world heart. If his merchant company could take root in the Dark World, they would be the first to obtain the world heart when it emerged.

Even without Nightmare desiring it, they could still sell the world heart for a good price if they found no use for it. Although they possessed grand supremes among their ranks, they were merchants to the core of their being.

"One more thing!" Nightmare raised. "If Starcatch Tower really establishes a branch in the Dark World, I want thirty percent of the profits! The cut goes to me, not the Ghost Sect!"

The grand supreme arched a brow. He hadn't expected Nightmare to propose that kind of condition—thirty percent was no small sum.

Before deciding on this path of action, Starcatch Tower had made a most stringent series of calculations. Their method? Formula dao.

Starcatch Tower was among those who sent their disciples to cultivate immortal dao in the World of Immortals. One of them successfully learned formula dao from those endeavors and was now a senior executive in the merchant company. Starcatch Tower sought out Nightmare after calculating how much profit was to be had from the Dark World. The merchant company was even willing to give up the world heart for it, but who would've thought this would be her requirement for partnership?

It'd be one thing if she was representing the Ghost Sect, that would mean the two factions would be allies. It would be a partnership of equally matched greats as there were also grand supremes in the sect.

But just a singular Nightmare for thirty percent of the profits from the Dark World?

She wasn't worth it. Not by far.

She wasn't a necessity to their goal either. Her sect possessed many more cultivators like her. Even the ghosts of the Dark Hell could replace her.

Thirty percent was too much.

"If Senior Myriad Treasure cannot satisfy this condition, then Nightmare will be unable to perform as requested." Nightmare smiled brilliantly.

"In that case, the two young friends are free to do as you wish." Sikong Myriad Treasure left with a flourish of his robes.

"Thirty percent isn't that much, but Myriad Treasure is more of a merchant than cultivator. He will decline if a deal doesn't reach his desired profit margin." Lu Yun watched the grand supreme leave. "Let's go."

"Mmhmm," Nightmare nodded.

"Grand overseer, are we letting them go just like this?" Someone hesitantly approached Sikong Myriad Treasure after the two visitors left.

"Thirty percent of a Dark World's profits... One Nightmare and Zhu Lingyan is not worth that price," the grand supreme sighed. "Crown Prince You Haoyue of the Dark Hell is also on Darkstar. Bring him in for a meeting."

"Understood."

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Inside the Wind and Cloud Pagoda.

"Oh my heavens, the illustrious master is finally here!" A gaudily dressed woman swanned over as soon as Lu Yun and Nightmare set foot into the Wind and Cloud Pagoda branch on Darkstar. She swept them into the heart of the building.

Although Lu Feng had created the organization, all core members of the auction house knew that there were two masters of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda: Lu Feng and Lu Yun.

And while the rest of the realm might not know who Zhu Lingyan was, how would the senior executives of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda be in the dark? They sensed his arrival the moment Lu Yun set foot on Darkstar and swiftly closed shop for the day.

They readied themselves for Lu Yun's arrival and indeed, he came as soon as he left Starcatch Tower.

The pagoda's foundations were far inferior to the tower's. In fact, the Wind and Cloud Pagoda was a crass example of new money compared to Starcatch Tower. But... this uncultured upstart was simply too rich for words.

The modified Lifeline Talisman and now Resurrection Talisman pushed them to new height after height. Their boss also happened to be a grand supreme who was a spacetime traveler. When Lu Feng established the Wind and Cloud Pagoda, he'd torn apart countless grand supremes to ensure that the pagoda would be domineering and secure in its position at the apex of the chief worlds.

If Starcatch Tower had the ability to help Nightmare deploy the strength of a high supreme in the Dark World, then so would the pagoda. Lu Yun had to use everything available to him in order to obtain the world heart.

### **Chapter 1898: Show Me the Money**

What made Lu Yun uncomfortable was that the gaudily dressed woman was also a grand supreme. The second he saw her, he contacted the Yama Kings and bade them to suspend operations regarding further major world conquest.

Things were not as they seemed—a significant group of powerhouses remained outside the tomb of the empyrean supreme, waiting and observing the situation. The grand supremes in the Ghost Sect, Starcatch Tower, and Wind and Cloud Pagoda were but the tip of the iceberg.

“Aiya, my most venerated master. Why are you looking at me like that? I personally served you last time in the Luo Trading Major World,” the woman giggled coquettishly.

What she meant by personal service was fetching tea and water for Lu Yun and arranging for his accommodations. Lu Yun hadn't known about the existence of grand supremes then, so he'd perceived her to be an ordinary supreme.

This time, the woman called Luo Qian gave him the same feeling as the sect master of the Ghost Sect and Myriad Treasure Grand Supreme of Starcatch Tower. Plainly, she was another grand supreme.

In the meantime, Nightmare looked at Lu Yun with an inexplicable look in her eyes. A grand supreme personally serving Lu Yun?

Her thoughts were obviously going down the wrong path.

Grand Supreme Luo Qian was well known throughout Darkstar and even more prominent than the Myriad Treasure Grand Supreme of Starcatch Tower. It hadn't been long since the Wind and Cloud Pagoda's establishment and they certainly lacked in relative foundation, but their annual revenue rivaled that of the greatest merchant companies.

Credit for that lay completely with Grand Supreme Luo Qian.

She possessed thousands of replicas—one of those had greeted Lu Yun last time. Meanwhile, her primary body resided on Darkstar, supervising operations on the major world.

Darkstar was a very important locale even without the Dark World opening. Endarkened often appeared here, as well as treasures that couldn't be found in the worlds of light. Most importantly was that the

true land of darkness constantly threatened the chief worlds. That made Darkstar an important bastion against the gloom.

While the endarkened that appeared on Darkstar was a far cry from those that resided in the land of darkness, they provided good practice for sequence cultivators.

Naturally, the Wind and Cloud Pagoda also possessed ambitions to establish a branch in the Dark World.

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“Enhancing ghost cultivators to the level of high supreme in the Dark World?” Luo Qian blinked after hearing Lu Yun’s story. “That’s not impossible, but little Princess Nightmare will probably die as soon as she leaves the Dark World.”

“What??” Lu Yun gasped. Nightmare colored with shock as well.

“In that case... Why didn’t the Myriad Treasure Grand Supreme agree to my condition?” It didn’t make sense to her. If Starcatch Tower just wanted to use her and let her die after the fact, then they should’ve secured the partnership no matter the cost.

“Or maybe Starcatch Tower’s method will cause no harm to you, but ours will take your life.” Luo Qian thought of another possibility. “Regardless, that Sikong Myriad Treasure will not give up easily. Apart from Nightmare, there is another ghost dao royalty in Darkstar City—You Haoyue of the Dark Hell.

“But I know that he won’t work with them either, so Starcatch Tower will have to come back to Nightmare. It’s one thing if they change their conditions, but if they agree to giving her thirty percent, then they’ll probably use the method we know and let her die after the job is done,” Luo Qian postulated gravely.

Boom—

Boom—

Boom—

The building trembled violently, as if someone was attacking the Wind and Cloud Pagoda.

“The two rats who dared insult Rising Sunriver’s princess will show themselves! Come out, or this supreme will destroy everything here!” rang a cold and detached voice. It was a high supreme from Rising Sunriver.

Lu Yun’s cheek spasmed.

“The tomb of the empyrean supreme does indeed hold great attraction for cultivators beyond supreme,” Luo Qian looked at Lu Yun. “But there are too many dangers inside it at the moment. Many high and grand supremes have yet to try their luck. We will enter only after the situation settles down.

“There are quite a few grand supremes who count as weaklings because we are not long into our ascension. But if established high supremes pick this moment to charge into the tomb, that would be courting death.

“Don’t worry, young lord, all of the high and grand supremes are focused squarely on the tomb of the empyrean supreme. What the World of Immortals is attempting does not warrant our attention.”

Lu Yun nodded with a rueful smile.

Fuxi and the others probably thought the same way, which was why they hadn’t entered the tomb. They were heavily injured and too many unknowns yet lurked in the structure. Once the situation progressed to the next stage, that was when the various high and grand supremes of the chief worlds would stream into the empyrean supreme’s tomb.

While the World of Immortals didn’t warrant their attention, they did want formula dao. It would be exceptionally useful in the tomb.

Luo Qian’s full concentration was on the tomb of the empyrean supreme. Lu Feng was immensely skilled in both immortal and formula dao, so the Wind and Cloud Pagoda wasn’t concerned about the upcoming expedition. Therefore, she’d ignored everything having to do with the World of Immortals.

Alarm bells, however, clanged in Lu Yun’s heart. The remaining high and grand supremes outside would very likely give the World of Immortals a fatal blow before they entered the tomb. They would forcefully strip formula dao from immortal dao then.

The Rising Sunriver high supreme continued to attack the pagoda. But seeing as it’d been built by Lu Feng himself, how would a mere high supreme break its defenses? They also seemed unaware that there was a grand supreme in residence at the Wind and Cloud Pagoda.

“Let them have their fun, they’ll go away when they’re tired.” Luo Qian didn’t care and didn’t seem inclined to teach the high supreme a lesson.

“You’re going to let them do whatever they want, just like this?” Nightmare asked blankly.

“What else can I do?” Luo Qian giggled. “We’re businessmen and focus on doing business. Rising Sunriver’s trade with us totals several hundred million enigma stones a year. Who spits in the face of so much money? We’ll make Rising Sunriver cough up some compensation for this, that’s all.”

Lu Yun held his forehead. Even saints experienced an occasional flare of temper, but the Wind and Cloud Pagoda remained unmoved when someone tried to beat their front door in.

After a while, the commotion outside dwindled down and the Rising Sunriver high supreme withdrew.

“Is it really the thing to do to just swallow this insult like this?” Lu Yun chuckled wryly.

“Swallow this insult? The pagoda never does that. Number two, make a trip to Rising Sunriver and tell them that their high supreme broke our Darkstar branch. Have them pay us one thousand ancestral veins of heaven and earth in damages.” Luo Qian made some quick calculations and updated, “Thirteen hundred veins! That’s probably their limit. It’s our loss if we demand any less and impossible for them to fulfill if we demand more.

“Thirteen hundred sits right at the maximum of what they can tolerate.”

Lu Yun and Nightmare gaped at her.

## Chapter 1899: Illustrious Master

Lu Yun finally understood why Lu Feng was so rich. Whenever someone offended him, he didn't think of how to get revenge. Instead, he brainstormed how to make them cough up money for the transgression. While he wasn't the richest person in the chief worlds, he was certainly among the top ten and someone who could smash enemies to death with pure wealth.

Of course, this was all due to personal strength. Lu Feng was once an incomparably mysterious grand supreme and commanded many heavyweights under his banner. Although he was a newly ascended grand supreme, he ripped apart many peers with his bare hands when creating the Wind and Cloud Pagoda branch of Darkstar.

Thus, while the pagoda was an uncultured upstart in many people's eyes, it was an upstart who killed anyone it set eyes on. Even more respect was cast their way after Lu Feng's identity as a spacetime traveler was revealed.

Peculiar times reigned in the chief worlds as most of the realm's preeminent powerhouses were preoccupied with exploring the tomb of the empyrean supreme. That left the rest of the chief worlds nursing the same thoughts as Lu Yun—they could do as they wished since there were no adults around.

Thus, a Rising Sunriver high supreme had come calling. If it'd been any other time, people would've had to wait outside the Wind and Cloud Pagoda even if the public enemy of the realm hid inside.

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The divine nation of Rising Sunriver was thrown into disarray. Their current ruler was undoubtedly a powerhouse among grand supremes. While he was far beneath someone like Yun Yi, he absolutely possessed the ability to explore the tomb of the empyrean supreme.

Although this was when the tomb was the most dangerous, whoever dared enter it now would also reap the greatest gains. Therefore, the Rising Sunriver ruler had gone to the tomb. Despite there being another grand supreme filling in for his liege, his eyes and thoughts were fully on the tomb as well.

Who would've thought that Rising Sunriver would send people to kick in the doors of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda, and that two grand supremes would jump out as a result!

Thirteen hundred ancestral veins of heaven and earth, would the divine nation pay up or not?

If they didn't, it would be the two grand supremes demanding payment next time. The current Rising Sunriver absolutely could not withstand grand supreme fury.

Thus, thirteen hundred veins were delivered in a neat bundle. When she received them, Luo Qian's eyes creased into crescents from the force of her smile.

"If we had ten thousand veins, I would be able to have Nightmare deploy the might of a high supreme—no, a grand supreme in the Dark World. There won't be any repercussions for her either!" Luo Qian merrily caressed a ring on her finger.

Just about to laugh at her for being so greedy, Lu Yun sharply jerked his head up.

“Ten thousand ancestral veins of heaven and earth will turn Nightmare into a grand supreme in the Dark World?”

“Yes,” Luo Qian nodded. “Many cultivators don’t understand what money is. Enigma stones? Ancestral veins of heaven and earth? That is the wealth of the chief worlds, and wealth means strength!”

“Ten thousand veins can turn a ghost cultivator into a grand supreme when operating in a Dark World. That is the power of money!”

“It’s a pity that ten thousand is too much though. The boss wrung us dry when he went to the tomb,” Luo Qian concluded with resignation.

With the Wind and Cloud Pagoda’s wealth, it wasn’t a tall task to take out ten thousand veins. Especially after the Resurrection Talisman came to be, the various factions of the chief worlds bid on talismans with ancestral veins.

But as soon as the empyrean supreme’s tomb opened, Lu Feng emptied the pagoda’s treasuries and made his way to the tomb alongside Chen Xiao, Qing Buyi, and a few other pagoda grand supremes.

The thirteen hundred veins that Luo Qian had just extorted was the current total sum of the pagoda’s wealth. She even had the new idea of sending Lu Yun and Nightmare into the public eye a few more times. When they attracted more enemies to their doorstep, she could earn a few more ancestral veins.

Just as much as Lu Feng loved money, so did Luo Qian adore money. Everyone in the pagoda sought to accumulate wealth because they subscribed to the notion that money was power.

“I have ten thousand ancestral veins,” Lu Yun thought for a moment.

He hadn’t claimed his share of the ancestral veins from the first talisman auction; Lu Feng had taken them all to the tomb with him. But he’d also extorted ten thousand from Yun Yi’s three concubines and placed them in the World of Immortals. They were meant to connect Fairylands to the world of immortal dao sequence, but Lu Yun accomplished it through other means later on.

After receiving the army of ten billion supremes from Tailong, he incorporated their great daos into hell and fortified the World of Immortals. Thus, the realm’s orders were spontaneously complete and the world of immortal dao sequence became the celestial world of immortals through the efforts of Fuxi and the others. It was thus the perfect counterpart to Fairylands on the ground.

That meant there was no use for those ten thousand ancestral veins of heaven and earth. They still remained in the vaults of the Dao Academy at Mount Xuanhuang.

Yun Yi is a woman, so why does she have concubines? Does she like women instead? Lu Yun suddenly wondered.

“If you really do own that much, I can turn Nightmare into a grand supreme in the Dark World. But, illustrious master, are you sure Nightmare will wholeheartedly help you?” Luo Qian asked without reservation, despite the ghost cultivator being right by them.

Luo Qian was strictly loyal to Lu Feng and thus viewed Lu Yun as the pagoda’s master in an extension of those sentiments. However, she didn’t trust Nightmare.

“No worries, she’d do it right now if I told her to off herself, wouldn’t you?” Lu Yun winked at Nightmare.

She blinked furiously back at him, expressing her dissatisfaction.

“Then that’s fine,” Luo Qian nodded. “A Dark World opens after its world heart is fully formed. There’s roughly a month left until then, which gives us ample time to prepare.

“When it opens, I will send our various genius sequence cultivators to help the illustrious master. You should forsake the Zhu Lingyan name,” she suddenly proposed. “The illustrious master of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda must have a status and identity greater than a disciple of the Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme. Not to mention, the illustrious master isn’t the supreme’s disciple at all.”

“Err, by the way, could you stop calling me illustrious master?” Lu Yun chuckled ruefully. “It sounds... weird.”

The Myriad Spirit Grand Supreme was his martial uncle, after all, and it was more convenient to borrow the man’s reputation when traveling through the chief worlds. But Luo Qian’s words also made him think of other considerations.

If the Wind and Cloud Pagoda blatantly allied with the World of Immortals at this point, it would give pause to many factions in the chief worlds. They’d all witnessed the pagoda’s domineering style for themselves.

However... While Lu Yun trusted Lu Feng, he didn’t dare trust the pagoda with complete lack of reservation. Though he could sense Lu Feng’s emotions, everyone had their own motives. Luo Qian might not nurse other thoughts, but that wasn’t necessarily true for others in the auction house.

Lu Yun was Lu Yun, he wasn’t Lu Feng.

“Understood, illustrious master,” Luo Qian nodded. “Then I will make preparations during the next half month, most venerable master. Luo Ming’s replica will come to oversee things. But ah... eminent master, just don’t butt heads with him.”

### **Chapter 1900: Do Not Trust**

Luo Ming was the second grand supreme left in residence at the Wind and Cloud Pagoda. His primary body was staffed on Luo Trading Major World, which was also where the pagoda’s headquarters were located. It was the auction house’s most important location. From this, it could be seen that Luo Ming was stronger than Luo Qian.

Her parting words before she entered closed door cultivation made Lu Yun scratch his head with confusion. Don’t butt heads with Luo Ming? Why would he set himself against a grand supreme of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda?

It wasn’t until Luo Ming’s replica arrived that Lu Yun understood why she’d said that. Luo Ming came with the appearance of a sinewy elder with bright eyes of moderate size.

“You are Lu Yun?” were his first words. His second sentence made Lu Yun frown. “You are to stay out of the Dark World affair. You are the boss’ younger brother. It would make him sad if you died there.



“Thus, you will remain here and not go anywhere.” He brandished his sleeves and sent Lu Yun to a secret chamber, grounding him.

Indeed, Lu Yun was under involuntary confinement.

The first thing that Luo Ming did upon coming to Darkstar was to confine their venerable guest without giving him a chance to speak.

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“It looks like other than Luo Qian, those of the Wind and Cloud Pagoda don’t think much of me. Lu Feng will be sad if I die, so he thinks grounding me is the most convenient thing to do?” Lu Yun sat cross-legged in the secret chamber and considered his present circumstances with a sour expression.

It’d been Luo Qian who attended to him on Luo Trading Major World, so she knew what kind of position Lu Yun occupied in Lu Feng’s heart. Plainly, Luo Mind didn’t care about that.

All he was concerned with was Lu Yun staying alive. As for what the young man thought, said, or did—that didn’t matter in the slightest.

The second master of the pagoda? What right did a twenty-eighth level ant have to speak to a grand supreme if he wasn’t Lu Feng’s younger brother?

Therefore, Luo Ming couldn’t be bothered to interact with Lu Yun and confined him after some initial words.

Lu Yun also understood Luo Ming’s perspective; Luo Qian had miscalculated. She’d thought that Luo Ming would restrict Lu Yun’s movement, not that he’d outright imprison the illustrious master.

“But a place like this can’t keep me. Since people know of my Zhu Lingyan identity... should I change to another one?” Lu Yun slightly furrowed his brows.

“No matter what identity you adopt, you will not bypass a grand supreme’s scrutiny,” a voice sounded by his ears.

“Who is it?!” Lu Yun started and whipped his head around, seeing that a young man in golden robes had appeared behind him. “It’s you! What are you doing here? Haven’t you gone to the tomb of the empyrean supreme?”

It was the nine clawed golden dragon.

“Don’t worry, I won’t touch you since you’re one of Tailong’s. I didn’t want to do anything to you to begin with.” Nine Claw sat down in front of Lu Yun and beamed merrily at the young man. “Not only will I not touch you, I’ll even stand behind you and lend you my strength.”

“Because of the azure dragon ancestral god?” Lu Yun blinked. “No, that’s not it. You come from the same origins as the azure dragon ancestral god. If he dies, you replace him as the ancestral god of the dragon race. All of his power over creation will fall into your lap.” A sharp light glittered in his eyes as he spoke of this without misgiving.

“You’re right. I’d like nothing more than for the azure dragon ancestral god to die right now, but he also can’t die,” Nine Claw responded equally candidly. “My ultimate goal is to devour him. Only then will I fully replace him, inheriting not only his power of creation, but also his strength.”

“I won’t help you,” Lu Yun shook his head.

“I don’t need your help. I partner with you now because of God. Because God stands behind you, so will I stand behind you. Being heavily injured, God cannot help you right now, but I can.” Nine Claw lifted his chin. “You don’t need help from the ghosts in the Dark World either. It’s an easy task for you to claim the world heart.”

Lu Yun studied his visitor’s face. “You’re not the nine clawed golden dragon, are you?”

Nine Claw blinked.

“There was once a nine clawed golden dragon born from the incense of the dragon race, but you... you possessed him,” Lu Yun pointed out.

Nine Claw’s expression shifted slightly before he shook his head. “I am the nine clawed golden dragon in truth after I possessed him. I am now nothing more than a pure draconic divine spirit. My past karmic times are severed. Why else do you think Ao Chong allows me space for my nonsense among the dragons?”

“So you admit it’s all nonsense too?” Lu Yun chortled. “I don’t care about internal draconic affairs, but you better stay away from Ao Hong and the one hundred dragons in hell.”

Nine Claw nodded. Being reborn in hell, the dragons of the Soul Dominion World received some of hell’s power and were now hell dragons. Leize and the azure dragon ancestral god often sent their replicas to teach and guide the reborn dragons.

Given enough time, they would rebuild themselves into an incredible faction.

“I cannot turn you down if you wish to support me, but you said so yourself, I am Tailong’s strategist. Tailong is my patron, and if you are too... What does that make me? A cheater?” Lu Yun snorted with slightly derisive laughter.

“Moran Dongning has surreptitiously given me the Master of Darkness. I didn’t realize it at first, but it agitated a few times after I arrived on Darkstar. I can sense its power now, so none of what you’re telling me is useful.” Lu Yun sat down and popped one leg on the other.

“Tailong has entered the tomb of the empyrean supreme...”

“No, he hasn’t.” Lu Yun shook his head before Nine Claw could finish. “With Tailong’s abilities and pride, he doesn’t need to try for the opportunities of other empyrean supremes. I’m sure that he’ll ascend through his own strength alone.

“Tailong is right. You don’t know him and you don’t know me,” Lu Yun smirked. “You think that because you’re a powerful grand supreme, I’ll happily wag my tail and beg at your feet when you say that you’ll help me.

“I’m willing to be Tailong’s strategist because he keeps nothing from me. He has set no guard on me and gave me ten billion supremes. He’s not holding anything back.

“As for you... I do not trust you.” Lu Yun gestured for his visitor to leave.

Nine Claw took a deep look at Lu Yun before departing.